
Shadows of Things to Come -- 2

The Coming War
and the
Rise of Russia

by

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RISE OF RUSSIA

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*The Coming War and the Rise
of Russia*

1.

“SHALL HEAR OF WARS”

In the first volume of this series, we announced our purpose, which is the sane, careful and accurate consideration of the program of prophecy in the light of current events. Our first study dealt with the promised return of Israel to Palestine, and the invasion of that land by an invincible army, frankly seeking loot. To show the credibility of this strange forecast, we called attention to the fact that over half a million Jews have already returned to Palestine, where they have developed the land, built unfortified cities, and produced a prosperity such as the ancient country has not known for ages. We further pointed out the unlimited source of treasure discovered in the Dead Sea, and now

being developed by "Potash, Ltd.," and marketed by that firm. Thus we saw that the prophesied return and invasion for spoils are reasonable, in the light of present conditions.

In this, our second study, we turn our attention to what the Word of God portrays of a coming war, the next-to-last war that shall ever trouble this planet. We referred to this conflict briefly in Volume One. We deal with it now in particular detail, for the further edification of those who desire to know what God has said concerning future events. Thus we may read history before it is enacted, and be warned so completely that we shall not be amazed when these things come to pass.

For there is a coming war, and such a battle seems imminent in the light of present-day conditions. Divine Revelation warns of this outrage against decency and civilization, and a full and complete demonstration of the

baseness of human character and conduct will be seen in the fullness of time. The brutal and heartless career of mass murder that is drenching Europe with blood today presages an attempt to subdue and rob a helpless and innocuous nation, in a coming day. And that later effort shall dwarf the sadistic nature of this present war, as bestial license shall be utterly unrestrained.

Together with other students of prophecy and teachers of the Bible, I have been stating in public meetings for the last ten years that the present World war was imminent. This insistence upon a prophesied fact brought me persecution and scornful derogation, all of which affected me and my ministry no whit. The jeers and laughter of those sad leaders who are ignorant of God's Word can have no hindering effect upon those of us who have unshakable faith in the Revelation God has made to men. Rather are we moved to compassion for those who shut their eyes

to fact and prophecy, and are thus overwhelmed by the waves of disaster which those who are wise in God's wisdom have foreseen and expected.

Prophecy was given for our learning, and if we seek an honest understanding of its mysteries and its symbols, the march of events cannot sweep us off our foundations of comprehension. So the current war should have been expected, and preparations to meet its horrible demands should have been made far in advance. If there were no other grounds for this statement than the words of Jesus, in Matthew 28:6-8, these verses should have been more than enough. The reader will remember that in that portion of His Olivet discourse, our Lord said:

“And ye shall hear of wars, and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be

famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Nowhere in Holy Writ is there any premise for the modern belief that universal peace will be achieved by the works of man or the plans of human leaders. Jesus warned His followers of the folly of such false hopes, and told us in plain words that wars would continue intermittently until the end of the Gospel age.

In a certain northern city some three years ago, a group of ardent young men from the local Junior College were working out a project in their class in Journalism. They set themselves the task of interviewing a group of men whom they themselves had designated as "advanced thinkers" and "the leaders of community thought." Their interviews were planned to get the consensus of such opinion on the certainty of peace, and the impossibility of war among civilized nations.

I do not know by what error I came to be included in this group of "intellectuals"—as it is a well-known fact that I am somewhat reactionary in my backward attitude toward "modern" problems. This is evidenced by the fact that I still persist in believing that the Bible is the infallible Word of God, and is thus the last word on human conduct and history. But I was interviewed by these starry-eyed lads, who possessed a Pollyanna psychology which was beautiful to observe, but utterly unworldly and impractical.

When the interview began, the spokesman asked, "Dr. Rimmer, we have come to get your opinion on the subject of world peace. We feel, of course, that the world will never again stoop to the horror of war, and that if world leaders ever did attempt to start a conflict, youth would refuse to engage in mass murder. We would like to quote your views on this subject."

I replied, "Your question seems to imply too much. You say the world will never again engage in war. Just what is Japan doing in China now?"

The lad scowled impatiently and said, "Oh, we mean the **civilized** nations. They will never be so foolish, the League of Nations has made it impossible for mass hate to ever flare again into armed conflict."

I tried to keep my face straight as I answered, "But Japan and China were both members of the League of Nations, they are at war now! So when you say the **civilized** nations will never engage in territorial conquest, I suppose you mean such cultural nations as Italy? In that case, what is Italy doing in Ethiopia at the present time?"

In the most disapproving voice you ever heard, the young man said, "Why, you sound like you do not believe in world peace! Are you totally unaware of such covenants as the

Kellogg Pact, and other similar documents?"

To this I could only reply, "I do know of these treaties, and also realize how utterly worthless they are! Japan signed the Kellogg Pact—Italy was a signatory of the League covenant against war, and the Locarno pact as well. The guiding spirit of nations in this age is the same pragmatic thirst for power and lust for territory which has always characterized the spirit of empire and conquest. So until Jesus comes again, and Himself assumes governmental authority, there is no hope for peace and permanent international relationships, such as you young men dream of!"

At once a storm of protest swept over me. The committee united in expressing their united approbation of my reactionary ignorance. I was finally told that **every** great thinker of the age disagreed with me, and I was hopelessly pessimistic. I objected to the

statement that "every great thinker" was against me, and quoted the words of Jesus, warning of war until His return.

But these were college men, and they knew better! They had read books, and had talked with teachers who had assured them that human evolution had reached a stage where mass murder was a thing of the past. When I showed them the clear statements of the Bible, which prophesied war and conflict, they left in impatience and disgust. My last word to them was that they would live to see my warnings fulfilled by the swelling tide of events.

I learned later that they asked permission of their Dean to leave my interview out of their printed report, but he ruled against it. He said, "It may be barely possible that Dr. Rimmer is right, and we may find that he is the only realist among us. Maybe we are all just wishful-thinkers, and entirely wrong.

So even though we do not agree with his pessimistic outlook, we will print his ideas and statements."

The aftermath you know. Even I did not expect the flood to come so soon, although there had been considerable "rain" that should have warned the world! I have since heard that two of these rosy optimists are in the army now, one is in the navy—and the rest of them are all registered by the draft act! At least they are awake now, even if the arousing was somewhat rude! I rather fancy that they are not so sure now that Jesus was ignorant of coming events, or that the Bible is outmoded by human progress and advancement!

In what a sad plight do our modernists and humanists find themselves in these black hours! The blind leaders of blind congregations are not happy in the ditch, wherein both find themselves in undesirable fellowship. That portion of the Church of Christ

which forsook the redemptive Gospel for a false hope is now reaping the reward of that folly and apostasy. The renegade section of the ministry, who turned from the message of Calvary to a strange error, has preached the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, and the enjoyment of world peace for too long. They cannot now return to the truth and the Book which they so blithely forsook, and which they have been denying for almost a quarter of a century.

And, with the same certainty that we have manifested in saying that this present war would come, we are equally dogmatic in our statement that this is not the last war that the earth shall see. There are to be at least two more which shall follow this one now raging.

As far as I can read the clear meaning of the Bible, the present European war is not specifically foretold in prophecy. But it should have been expected, if for no other

reason than for the statement of Jesus in the above cited passage from the Gospel of Matthew. And beyond all else, it must be emphasized that the conflict now being fought is not the Battle of Armageddon.

How often do we see enthusiasm taking the place of sane consideration, and common sense displaced by a reckless leaping at unwarranted conclusions. In Los Angeles recently we saw a large and gaudy sign decorating the front of a church, announcing that "Armageddon is now being fought!" We were not surprised to see that this was the sermon topic of a noted shallow thinker, one of the chief exponents of British-Israelism, and a man who has been consistently wrong in all his Bible interpretations for a full ten years. One of the tragedies of the modern movement of Bible teaching is the fact that so many men are woefully unprepared to teach God's Word. They lack background, they have no grasp of the proper divisions of

the Book, and they wrest the dispensational settings all out of proper application. This condition is utterly needless, as we have excellent Bible Institutes and colleges which can impart a splendid foundation of Scriptural learning to all who desire to so equip themselves. With Institutes such as the Northwestern Bible Institute at Minneapolis, The Moody Bible Institute at Chicago, the two Institutes in Philadelphia and the Bible Institute of Los Angeles all offering magnificent training, ignorance on the part of public teachers is not only needless; but inexcusable. **Trained** men who know the Word, do not often fall into these childish extremes of Biblical misapplication.

2.

ARMAGEDDON

What is it? — Where is it?

The war now troubling the world is not the subject of our present study—but it is a “shadow” of that coming event. We stated in a previous paragraph that there would be two more wars, at least. They are “The Battle of the Valley of Jehoshaphat,” which begins the millennial reign of Christ, and the “Battle of Armageddon” which is fought at the end of the thousand-year span of the Kingdom. That is to say, Armageddon occurs at the close of Christ’s reign, if the commentators and teachers are right in saying that this famed battle is to be the last war that earth shall experience. This final conflict is described in the twentieth chapter of

Revelation, and the direct statement is made that it is staged "when the thousand years are expired" (Rev. 20:7). The first battle which holds our interest now is to be fought as Jesus returns to inaugurate this thousand years.

Armageddon is the wrong site for the first battle. Perhaps the word, in spite of the familiar use made of it for years, would be better grasped if we dealt with it at length. Bible students know that it occurs only once in the New Testament, in Revelation 16:16. Armageddon is the Greek form: in Hebrew it would be Har-Magedon. The one reference to it in Revelation shows it to be the rallying place of the armies that oppose God and His people. They are called together for this battle by the unclean spirit of Satan, and join in the last great struggle between right and wrong, between good and evil.

While there have been various theories advanced to identify the site with accuracy,

the most plausible and most generally accepted idea is that the name refers to the Hill of Megiddo, made famous by many battles in antiquity. On this battleground Josiah undertook his fatal foray against the Pharoah Necho, and here also Israel fought magnificently against the armies of the tyrant Sisera. The low hills of Megiddo overlook the plains of Esdraelon, where more bloody engagements have occurred between armed hosts than can be found connected with any other field of warfare in this entire earth. Every acre of the region has been repeatedly stained with blood, until the very soil reeks with the memory of slaughter.

If you were to leave Jerusalem to journey to Tiberias, going by way of Nablus and Nazareth, you would skirt along one border of this fateful plain. And, since the battle of Ezekiel's prophecy transpires in the "valley of the passengers", which is the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Ez. 39:11) this first conflict is

joined east of Jerusalem. Megiddo is in the north — a long way from Ezekiel's prophesied site.

If further evidence were needed, to conclusively settle the point that the present world war is neither of the two battles prophesied in Scripture, we would note that the wrong leaders are at the forefront of the current conflict. The present aggressor is Germany, abetted actively by Italy, and passively by Russia. The aggressor in Ezekiel's war, as well as in the battle of Armageddon, will be Russia, as we will presently show.

Further, we note that the wrong enemies participate in the European set-up. England, France and Greece are the victims of invasion now, to say nothing of Poland, the Netherlands and other countries. But in the battle described in this prophecy, Israel is to be the victim, and no Gentile nation shall stand as her friend or ally.

Finally, the present war is to be won by the ultimate victor, by manpower and the use of carnal weapons. But the battle that Ezekiel forecasts will be won by Israel when God moves to defeat the invader with supernatural weapons. Although the sword shall begin his defeat, the enemy will be completely overturned by earthquake, pestilence, a rain of brimstone such as blotted out Sodom, and hailstones similar to the rain of missiles which turned the tide of battle in Joshua's favor when he fought on the plains of Beth-horon.

We must not fail to notice that the sword which begins the defeat is not wielded by Israel. They are completely defenseless, and their rescue depends upon divine intervention exclusively. To accomplish this, God sends a confusion upon the host of Gog, and the armed men in the army of pillage turn upon each other and begin to smite in blind panic. This is clearly stated in verse 21 of

chapter 38, where the prophet writes, "And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God, every man's sword shall be against his brother."

The Jews have no brethren in the attacking force, so this must mean that men-at-arms shall turn against their brothers-in-arms, and in sudden civil strife smite and slay. The work thus begun will be finished by the horrible and destructive rain from the sky. This will continue until the great army is almost exterminated.

So then, we say that no matter how bad this present war may be, there will be another after it, more terrible in its consequences than any conflict in history has ever been or ever will be until that day. This coming war is the subject of the prophecy of Ezekiel in chapters 38 and 39 of the book which bears his name.

Since it is absolutely imperative to an understanding of this subject that the reader of this study shall be familiar with the exact words of this prophecy, we here print them in full, and if you skip that portion of this present book, you may as well lay the subject aside, as you will have no basis of comparison of that which shall follow. Attend, then, to these

WORDS OF EZEKIEL

CHAPTER 38

And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

2. *Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,*

3. *And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:*

4. *And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:*

5. *Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:*

6. *Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.*

7. *Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.*

8. *After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.*

9. *Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.*

10. *Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:*

11. *And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwallled villages; I will go to them that are at*

rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,

12. To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.

13. Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

14. Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD: In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

15. And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

16. *And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.*

17. *Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?*

18. *And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face.*

19. *For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;*

20. *So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be*

thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

21. *And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother.*

22. *And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.*

23. *Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.*

CHAPTER 39

Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

2. *And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and I will cause thee to come up*

from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel;

3. And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

4. Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

5. Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.

6. And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

7. So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

8. *Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this is the day whereof I have spoken.*

9. *And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years:*

10. *So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD.*

11. *And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamon-gog.*

12. *And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land.*

13. *Yea, all the people of the land shall bury them; and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord GOD.*

14. *And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search.*

15. *And the passengers that pass through the land, when any seeth a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamon-gog.*

16. *And also the name of the city shall be Hamonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land.*

17. *And, thou Son of man, thus said the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice, that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood.*

18. *Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan.*

19. *And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.*

20. *Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord God.*

21. *And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them.*

22. *So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward.*

23. *And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword.*

24. *According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them.*

25. *Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name;*

26. *After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid.*

27. *When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations;*

28. *Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.*

29. *Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord God.*

The section may be outlined in this simple manner:

Chapter 38: 1 - 6—War Forecast, and the Allies named.

" 7-10—The Invasion planned.

" 11-13—The Motive stated.

" 14-17—The Invasion attempted.

" 18-23—Divine opposition.

Chapter 39: 1—Divine Opposition Continued.

" 2-8—Defeat of the Invaders:

5 out of 6 die.

Weapons useless.

God triumphant in battle

" 9-16—The "mopping up" period.

7 years to clear the debris and bury the dead.

- ” 17-29—Final Grace of God on the land and people: the conversion of restored Israel.

This, then, is the simple outline of the coming war, which we shall now examine in specific detail, as far as space will permit.

THE COMING WAR

There can be no question but that this battle is yet in the future. Nothing like it has ever occurred in human history so far, and the very details of the prophecy make this event to be one of the coming things still hidden in the womb of time. These details are many, varied and explicit. While it is the custom for certain schools of interpretation to seek to ascribe all prophecies to some past historical fulfillment, such a technique of negation will not serve here.

For instance, the record demands that when this great tragedy begins, Israel must be back in her own land. It is true, of course, that in certain portions of his writings, Ezekiel envisaged the return of the Jews to Pales-

tine at the end of their Babylonian exile, but by no stretch of the imagination can the events of this present prophecy be assigned to that return. This prophecy states that after the return dealt with in this particular paragraph, Russia will lead an allied horde against Israel, and will go down into disastrous defeat.

After the return under Zerubbabel, when Cyrus issued his famed decree, there were troublous times for the returned remnant. They built their walls and plowed their fields with sword and spear never far from their lands, and there was no semblance of safety in all those ages. And when the invader did come, it was Rome, not Russia, who put them back under the yoke of bondage, from which they never escaped. Rome continued her oppression until Israel was again expelled, in A.D. 70, after the fierce and unlicensed rape of Palestine by Titus the Great. It is from this Roman dispersion that Israel

is again to be gathered, not a remnant this time, and not from Assyria alone. But they are to return, according to Ezekiel, from "out of the nations" and "out of their enemies' lands." He finishes the record of complete return with the statement "and have left none of them there any more."

So before this battle takes place, all Israel must be returned to her own land; a process which is even now under way. It is halted briefly by the events of the present European crisis, but if Britain wins this immediate war, the return of Israel will be immensely accelerated.

Then notice also that after the return is complete, and before this prophecy is fulfilled, a vast concentration of wealth must be made in Palestine. The frank and brutal reason for the invasion is the desire for spoils. Gog shall say, "I will go up . . . to take a spoil and to take a prey," and this is the excuse he offers for the violation of the

peace and security of a helpless people. The development of the resources of that land has only commenced. Ten years of uninterrupted industry there will make Palestine the richest concentration of treasure this world has so far witnessed. Even five years of unbroken application to the cultivation of her natural resources would make Palestine the envy of the world, and a land very well worth robbing, indeed.

An even stronger evidence of the future nature of this amazing prediction is the statement that when the outrage is perpetrated, the people shall be living in unfortified and defenseless villages and habitations. Gog makes a frank admission that the very helplessness of the inhabitants is an inducement to invasion! He is looking for a quick and easy victory, one that will enrich him and his allies with very little expenditure on their part.

Certainly this has no application to any past event, for the children of Israel have never dwelt in even fancied security in that troubled and war-torn land. The history of Palestine has been one of unbroken strife, alarm, battle and disaster. But when the great return is accomplished, the nation of Israel shall give no thought to defense, as they will fancy themselves secure in their possession, most probably because of the covenants that the nations make with them. It seems as though humanity will never learn the grim lesson that all men who are godless are also liars and willful deceivers. Consider the sadness the world is in today because honest men trusted the word of wicked and sinful wretches like Hitler, Stalin and the misguided Mussolini. So Israel shall make a covenant with the nations, in spite of the fact that one of the signs of the last days will be "men shall be covenant breakers." The disillusionment will be bitter, bleak and grim

for the Jew, when an army, headed by his ancient enemy crosses his borders to slay and pillage again.

The weirdest and most conclusive evidence that we are faced with in a foretelling of events yet to occur is the startling statement that this raiding army is armed only with wooden weapons! This conclusion is inescapable when we ponder the strange circumstances which are given as a result of the debacle of the assailing horde. The Children of Israel gather their weapons of war, and burn them for fuel. The supply is sufficient to last for seven years, in and during which time the Jews cut no timber nor split any wood for their stoves and fireplaces. Verses nine and ten of the 39th chapter will admit of no other interpretation than this, which is clearly demanded by all the connotations of the words used by the writer.

This has never happened yet, and at first thought it is sometimes advanced as an argu-

ment against the possibility of any future realization of the prophecy. The question frequently and naturally arises, "Why should nations in the future give up guns, tanks, airplanes, cannon and weapons of steel for a reversion to implements of wood?"

At first sight this looks like a real difficulty, indeed, and ten years ago we could supply no answer. But some light on the question has been given recently, in the birth of a new, but promising scientific endeavor.

Just as sound is broadcast by radio, so also it is now possible to broadcast power by means of a vacuum tube. It is true that these first attempts are crude and limited, but radio was not much to brag about when it was an infant, just making its voice heard in the ears of a startled world! Give this new discovery a few years' development, and weird things may eventuate!

The successful attempts show what may come to pass. At the present time the power sent out from the broadcasting plant is projected on the beam principle, is limited in range, and can be picked up only by a restricted number of metals and alloys. But in one experiment a plate of proper alloy was set out in a field fifty miles from the projecting point, and a tea kettle of water was set on this metal disk. The power was broadcast on a beam directed toward the receiving plate, and in 15 minutes the teakettle, out in the field, was bubbling and steaming away as merrily as though it was safely and orthodoxly resting on a sedate kitchen range!

Without doubt, when this technique is perfected, it will be possible to broadcast power which will affect any metal at a reasonable distance. Then warring nations will have to turn to weapons of wood — or rubber! Of what use would it be to give a man a gun, when a power plant 50 miles

away can turn it red hot in his hands? Men in metal tanks would be baked to a cinder before they could get close enough to use their powerful guns. Cannon would be red hot, and powder would explode the second it touched the chamber or breech, making loading impossible. The imagination of man literally staggers at the thought of all the consequences which may eventually result from this discovery, but one thing is certain. It spells the ultimate doom of metal weapons of warfare.

I do not for a moment suppose that Ezekiel knew that this discovery would be made, but it is a matter of deep interest to note that the prophet, speaking by the Spirit of God, describes a battle yet in the future, and which awaits the development of this technique of defense.

The final argument, however, for the statement that the world still awaits occur-

rence of this unwarranted onslaught, is the list of the allied peoples who make the ill-fated attempt. The army shall be headed by Russia, accompanied by certain African states, Iran, once called Persia, some of the Balkan states, Armenia, and others not named in the text, but put together in the phrase "many peoples."

GOG AND MAGOG

We are often asked, "How do you know who these nations are?" and this is a splendid place to answer that question. It is not a matter for speculation and theorizing, but a background of ethnology and ancient history forms the foundation for a positive reply. The identification of the assailants is really simple, if we consult our sources rather than our imaginations.

The first important clue is the statement that the head of the league of assault is one "Gog" who is identified as coming from the land of "Magog" and as being the chief prince of "Meshech" and "Tubal." Note this first link in the chain which we shall forge, Gog is a ruler, a man; and Magog is his domain or territory.

Let us now trace out the etymology of the word Gog. It is, of course, a proper name, and we find it used for the first time in history about the year 1600 B.C. In I Chron. 5:4 the name is given to a Reubenite, who was a grandson of Joel. The second occurrence is in Ezekiel 38, and there the name is applied to a prince of the lands of Rosh, Meshech, Tubal, and Tiras, in a geographical region anciently called Scythia, or Tartary.

Suspending that section of our inquiry for a moment, we next look at the word Magog. We find its first use was also as a proper name, appearing in Gen. 10:2 as the second son of Japheth. Later it came to be used of his descendants, and still later was applied to their land. The first territorial possession of this people was called Scythia. Herodotus, the famed Greek historian, states that in his day the Scythians were savages, and that Scythia was a region of vast boundaries, lying north of the Black Sea and the Caspian

Sea, and also north of the Caucasus mountains. This historian states that they did not cultivate the land, but lived by pillage and warfare. They are described as nomads of filthy habits, who never washed in water, bloodthirsty and implacable in battle. Their chief god was a naked sword, and they sacrificed one in every hundred prisoners of war to this deity. They drank the blood of their enemies, made doilies of their scalps and vases of their skulls, and were a very nasty proposition to meet in conflict.

If you will now take time to refer to your globe, you will confirm your general idea that the land "north of the Black and Caspian seas, and of the Caucasus mountains" is, and always has been, Russia. Thus identification begins to appear.

Let us now turn to our third word, "Meshech." He also was a son of Japheth, according to Gen. 10:2, and his descendants came to be called "Mosche," from which is

derived the old term "Muscovites." While this latter word is and has been applied to all Russians in general, it originally defined those Russians who come from Moscow and its vicinity. This refers, of course, to the ancient site. The modern city of Moscow was founded in 1156 A.D., and the name "Muscovites" is still applied to greater Russians, because of the older custom.

The region was first called "Meshech," then "Muscovi" and finally Moscow. But the identity has always been simply Russia.

The next link in our growing chain of identification is the word "Tubal" which is also used by Ezekiel. He also was a son of Japheth, and his descendants are never mentioned in antiquity apart from the people of Meshech. Josephus, the Jewish-Roman historian, calls the children of Tubal "the Moschoi," and they made a name for themselves in Old Testament times.

The annals of Assyria speak of them with considerable heat, as they were constantly raiding the outskirts of the Assyrian Empire. These ancient chronicles from the land of Mesopotamia call these people "Tobali" and "Muski," so that "Tubal and Meshech" are again joined in historical records. These scribes of Assyria state that the "Tobali and Muski" lived in a vast land of mountains, north of the Black Sea. The Crimea seems to be indicated, but at any rate we are back in Russia again. Finally, Tubal was also the name of a city in primitive Russia, which may or may not be important to our final conclusion.

Thus, in a brief summary, we present our reasons for stating that "Gog of the land of Magog, the chief prince of the land of Meshech and Tubal" can refer to none other than Russia. She heads the aggressors when they attack Palestine, and it is a self-appar-

ent fact that such conduct is only in accord with her long and bloody history, and in perfect harmony with her godless lack of ethics in her present form.

GOMER

The identity of the other allies is equally certain. I expect that I shall tread on some commentators' and teachers' toes when I say that "Gomer" refers to a Balkan people, closely allied to Russia in blood, manners and customs. I know that it is the general custom of many teachers of prophecy to identify Germany under the name of Gomer, but a careful consideration will show that idea is a manifest error. Ask such teachers for proof of this identity, and none is ever forthcoming. So lest I also fall into the same error of dogmatic assertion, for which I can advance no conclusive and convincing proof, let me hasten to establish my premise. Once again we refer to ethnology and to history.

At the very outset of our investigation we meet Japheth, the son of Noah again. The table of nations in Gen. 10 gives us the information that Gomer also was Japheth's son. Thus we find the same close ties of blood linking Gomer to Magog, that linked Magog and Tubal as well. In the records of Assyria and Egypt we find much help in this study, for these nations fought the war-like people of Gomer to their sorrow and loss. The Greeks also struggled with them and retreated before their fierce forays, and their fighting abilities were held in deep respect.

The Assyrians have left the best records for our studies of these people. These sources tell us that Gomer was a tribe of fierce and barbaric Aryans which poured out of southern Russia, through the Caucasian mountains, and battled for new territory. They struggled across Western Asia and fought the Assyrians, and finally headed north by another route. They subdued and captured

Cappadocia, and for centuries made it their stronghold. They finally settled in the region we now call the Balkans, and their Russian traits and characteristics have never been completely lost. Russia claims them as kindred even today, and justly feels that her sphere of influence should include these semi-Russian tribes. The Balkan people still love war and its glories, and make magnificent fighting men. The Armenian name for Cappadocia is "Gamir," and it is derived from the name Gomer. Every record of antiquity demands this positive identification: Gomer is a Balkan region and people. They will most naturally ally themselves with Russia, their ancient mother-country, when the proper time comes.

7.

TOGARMAH

The only remaining ally with whom the average reader has difficulty is "Togarmah." This people we know to be Armenia. Referring again to the 10th chapter of Genesis, the third verse states that Togarmah was the son of Gomer, the grandson of Japheth. The same ties of consanguinity govern here. These are people also of the same ancient strain.

Geographically, Togarmah has always been the land which we now call Armenia. It is so named in the records of Assyria. I feel sure that no informed person would be inclined to dispute this particular identification, as the Assyrian chronicles are amply

aided by such ancient writers as Tacitus. Indeed, all Armenian literature refers to the land and its people as "The House of Togarmah," and they hold an unbroken tradition which antedates their literature by centuries, linking them to the grandson of Japheth.

So here we have in Ezekiel's warning a league of races, anciently related by blood and interest, headed by Russia and assisted by certain Balkan races. The set-up is most logical to say the least, and highly probable in the light of past history .

8.

PERSIA (Iran)

But the real interest in this strange alliance is found in certain other races, clearly named in the text and well known to all students and scholars. The first of them is Persia. Her inclusion in any conquering horde has long been a source of considerable amusement to the learned skeptics, and at first thought these critics would seem to be justified. The days of Persia's glory and power had seemed to be long past, indeed. But what a marvelous history hers has been! Few existing nations go farther back into antiquity than does the country which has recently resumed its old name of "Iran." It was one of the earliest seats of culture and civilization, and for centuries her arms were

invincible. When Cyrus took over the land of Babylonia, Persia became a world empire, and she pushed her conquests westward to Greece, eastward to the Indus, southward to Ethiopia and north as far as the shores of the Caspian sea.

But Alexander the Macedonian turned the stream of empire into new channels, and Persia has been practically a vassal state since. The Romans held the country for a time, the Moslems conquered it, and only under the Abbaside Caliphs did Iran regain a semblance of her ancient glory.

In recent times she has been the football of Russian and British politics, and it was not until 1918 that she felt strong enough to denounce the treaties forced upon her by these two countries in 1907. The year 1920 saw her acceptance into the League of Nations, and she has grown and prospered amazingly since. Her army is rapidly being modernized, and she is strongly influenced at

present by her one-time enemy, Russia. If she continues her present rate of development, she could become a valued aid to any army campaigning in the East.

9.

LIBYA and ETHIOPIA

While it is sometimes difficult for the modern reader to identify some of the nations and peoples named in the Old Testament, we need have no difficulty in this regard with "Libya." Quite apparently the same African region that bears this name today is intended in the prophecy of Ezekiel. The prophet, of course, does not call the land by its modern name, but uses the Hebrew form of "Phut," which the Septuagint renders by the Greek equivalent of "Put." Either form of the word makes the task of identification fairly simple.

In the Table of Nations of Genesis, the sixth verse gives "Put" as the son of Ham, therefore the people of "Put" are of the

same racial strain as are all Africans. They appear in Old Testament records as allies of Egypt. Jeremiah, Nahum and Ezekiel all speak of their skill with shield and bow. The Egyptians called that country "Punt" or "Pwent," and assigned the people to that section of Africa which was directly west of Egypt, and which paralleled the coast. This is, of course, the Libya of the present day. It was the homeland of the warriors who made fame for themselves first as hired allies of Egypt, and later as mercenaries in the army of Tyre. In this latter instance, they appear as fellow allies with Persia and Lud (Lydia).

Only one other "Put" is met with in the records of antiquity, and this one is also an African section. In the 37th year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar's scribe made a record on a tablet recently recovered, which tells of his king's campaign against Egypt.

He lists as the strongest ally of Egypt, "Put," which seems to lie, according to his description, east of Ethiopia.

In the Persian record of Naqsh-i-Rustem, three African countries are listed together, "the land Put, the land Kush, the land Mas-su." The scribe definitely assigns the name "Kush" to Ethiopia, so that once again the African union is suggested. If the reader desires to make a comprehensive study of this subject, he is referred to the work of the master ethnologist, W. Max Muller, whose book entitled "Asien und Europa" gives most of the data suggested here.

Equally authoritative is the King James version in its translation of the Hebrew name of "Cush" into the English name "Ethiopia." Going back to the tenth chapter of Genesis, we refer again to that priceless Table of Nations, and we see that "Cush" was the son of Ham. At the very outset we are in African

anthropology. The children of Cush populated the country to the south of Egypt, and their first and smaller holding consisted of the region that extended from the junction of The White Nile with the Blue Nile, all the way to the ancient border of Egypt. Most of this region is now called the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

Later, however, the sons of Cush spread their domain, and controlled all the territory of modern Nubia, Sennar, Kordofan, and Abyssinia. When the English Bible translates "Cush" by the name of "Ethiopia" it is accurate in the extreme. The Egyptians in earliest times called this land "Kos," the Assyrians and Babylonians named it "Kusu," and as we have seen, the Hebrews called it "Cush." Although they were descendants of Ham, and therefore non-Semitic, they spoke a Semitic language which was closely related to Himyaritic, combined with some forms of Assyro-Babylonian. Muller argues

that they were brown, not black, and that they were akin to the Canaanites. Again the reader is referred to his work "Asien und Europa" for a comprehensive survey of the anthropology involved.

At any rate, there is no need to make a mystery of the references Ezekiel makes to the future allies of Russia, they are the African colonies at present held by Italy. The major problem is, how long can she hold them? The answer, of course, will appear as one of the most eagerly awaited results of the current European war. If the Axis wins (perish the thought!) Italy may cling to this territory until Russia decides that she wants it. Make no mistake, when Russia does so decide, Italy will have to drop these possessions like a hot potato, or get her fingers badly burned. Even if the Axis is victorious in this conflict, only the most naive and thoughtless would concede that weak and enfeebled Italy will ever get all that she had hoped to

acquire as a result of her aid in the conflict. She will be fortunate indeed, if her present friends do not turn against her and rend her, also.

Of these matters we cannot claim any special knowledge, but we can read the words of Ezekiel and understand their meaning, as far as they apply to nations and peoples. By "Put" he means the modern region of Libya, and by "Cush" Ethiopia is intended.

The suggestive and intriguing ideas that come from the inclusion of the two African states, Ethiopia and Libya, are among the most startling aspects of this prophecy. Both of these states are now vassals of Italy: Ezekiel lists them among the **independent** allies of Russia! Does this denote a weakening of the Roman Empire, and a loss of the African colonies which have cost her so much in blood and treasure? It quite evidently does!

The African holdings of Italy are now staked on the board of Eastern warfare, as

wagers in what must eventually be a losing game. Italy has long dreamed of extending her empire at the cost and expense of Great Britain, and the ill-starred Duce entered the present war on Germany's side only when he was convinced that the war was over, and Great Britain was crushed and doomed. He avidly desired certain spoils for Italy, territory he long had been scheming to get in his grasp. So he pounced upon what he thought was a dead lion — to his present dismay. The lion was not even mortally wounded — and may yet rend the jackal nation which thought to fatten itself on Britain's losses. Great events are to be expected soon, and the world holds its breath with suspense.

To defeat Great Britain, Germany must either invade the Islands and crush England, or cut off her dominions and colonies from all opportunity to support the mother country. Egypt and the vital Suez Canal region

are the logical places to strike the most strategic blow, and Italy was given the important task of wresting those regions out of Great Britain's possession.

Might as well send a mouse to chase a cat away from its bowl of cream! The pitiful and inadequate efforts of Italy have not embarrassed England in any way, and the only result has been that Italy's African holdings are seriously endangered. If Italy fails in her Eastern campaign, as fail she must, she will lose Ethiopia certainly, and probably Libya as well.

This will leave these two African states more or less free to make their own alliances, and ultimately they will come under Russia's influence and sphere. Then the league which Ezekiel has prophesied will be an accomplished fact, and the stage will be set for the tragic drama of this coming war, and the utter defeat of the attacking powers.

10.

EZEKIEL'S FORECAST

So perhaps the present war is very much concerned in the fulfillment of prophecy, even if it is not specifically prophesied itself.

May I venture a few suggestions here? Remember, I am not a prophet, and I am not attempting to prophesy. Since human conclusions, even if based upon an infallible revelation, are still not infallible by any means, any interpreter of future probabilities may be very wrong. Where the Word of God speaks with clarity of description and finality, we can be bold to stand thereon, but when we come to apply sections of the Book which do not specify a dogmatic application to one certain event, to other and possible applications, the factor of probable error must be reckoned with. For example, in the com-

ing war of Ezekiel's forecast, we can identify certain peoples with assurance and proclaim the result without qualification. Russia, Persia, certain Balkan and African states, together with smaller allies, shall pounce upon a peaceful Palestine, and shall meet with the most disastrous defeat history has ever recorded. The very positive language of the prognostication states that only **one out of six of the invading army escapes alive!** This percentage of casualties is appalling, and has never been recorded in military annals. How many this shall be in gross numbers we cannot say — but God has warned the assailants that the carrion-loving birds and all the beasts of prey shall feast to repletion upon the slain flesh of the armed host, and that the residents of Palestine shall be engaged a full seven months in the task of discovering and burying the bones of those who have died. The intruders shall fall in the mountains, in the open fields, and in the valley. Every-

where the ravening birds and the flesh-eating animals shall fulfill their grim mission as mortuaries, and all the loot-hungry throng can expect as a profit for their incursion, is a grave in Palestine. The stench of the charnel odor will offend the nostrils of all who pass that way, and the entire Valley of Jehoshaphat will be set aside as a graveyard for the multitude of the slain in Gog's host. Poor, unhappy Russia! By her own folly and godlessness she is doomed to perish as all of God's enemies must ultimately pass into shameful oblivion. If only she would repent and turn to God, how different her future would be. But she will not: definitely dedicated to atheism, Russia is today the official center of an organized hatred of all that represents God and His will, and she is determined to go on that way to the inevitable end. The best we can hope for is that individual Russians may hear the Word of God, turn to Jesus Christ as Saviour, and escape

the mass destruction that faces so many of this melancholy race at the end of this age. The survivors of the nation shall share in the millennial blessings, of course, but we still see them at the end of the Kingdom age, ready to rebel against God when Satan is freed to lead them once more.

These things are certain and sure; God has spoken, and His word cannot fail. But as we turn to the application of probable events in our day, we confess to an unwillingness to commit ourselves too far beyond that which is written. If we knew for certain that we were in the last days, and the coming of our Lord was definitely scheduled for our generation, the situation would be different. But no man knoweth the day nor the hour, the times nor the seasons, nay, not even the century when our King shall appear. However, if the appearing of Jesus is imminent, then out of the present war we can expect these certain results.

THE CONFLICT AHEAD

First, Great Britain will win the present conflict. For reasons which will appear in the companion volume which will follow this present study, "The Coming League," this fact has seemed clear from the beginning. I simply reiterate what I have said from the start of the awful hostilities which now rage, when I state with assurance that I personally expect victory for Great Britain.

The result of that triumph will be the complete and unrestricted fulfillment of the Balfour Declaration. England will wholeheartedly proceed to honor her commitments to Zion, and the Jews will return in vast numbers to their own land. The rate of their re-

patriation will be accelerated enormously, and a Jewish state will appear to take its place in the councils of the nations. This youthful addition to accepted governments will thrive in a manner that will astound the world, and Palestine shall once more harbor a reborn Israel.

The third result will be the enormously enhanced prestige of Russia. No matter who wins the war, Russia will emerge from the international melee tremendously strengthened, with her hands filled with the spoils of war and her teeth gripped like a bulldog on new territories. If Germany wins, she will be so exhausted she cannot face a new foe, and Russia can demand what she wills. Right now Stalin is being wooed by Hitler, who is almost sick with disappointment over the ineffectual partnership he formed with Mussolini. If Britain wins, she will be glad to purchase Russia's good will and cooperation with a few concessions to the Russian age-

old dream of a southward advance toward warmer seas. We know that Britain is desperately trying even now to bind bloody Russia to her present cause, and what promises may have been made no man can say.

But this much seems certain: Russia will come to the end of this present war with her manpower undepleted, her munitions and machines unexpended, and her resources for battle unimpaired. Beyond doubt she will have a fresh hold on the Balkans, and it is highly probable that she will have Balkan territory as well. Indeed, she has some of it now, if she can just hold on to it. At any rate the final peace in the present conflict will see Russia as the head of a Balkan Alliance, in which case the beginning of the league Ezekiel forecasts will be visible.

The next item to remember is the certainty that Italy will come out of the war desperately weakened. It may well be the end

of any Italian dream of empire. Her aspirations in that direction are well known, but the small foundation which she laid, at such terrible cost, is crumbling before her eyes even now as we watch the swift march of events. Italy will probably lose Ethiopia and Libya, and may also be stripped of her other African possessions, as was Germany at the close of the war in 1918. This must certainly be her condition when the coming war begins, for Ezekiel specifically lists two of her present colonies, Ethiopia and Libya, as allies of **Russia** in a future conflict.

If Britain wins the present trial at arms, we may expect a rupture between Germany and Russia. The penalties that will be visited upon Germany for starting this outrage of blood and suffering will reduce her from a first-class Power to a condition of literal servitude. The world will certainly not make the mistake of leniency with a race which has forfeited every consideration to kindness

and mercy. Russia and Germany do not trust each other now any more than any other pair of burglars show confidence in the good intentions of each toward the other, and when Russia has gotten from Germany all she can hope to obtain, the rupture will come suddenly. Stalin, the complete pragmatist, is not bound by any ties of honor. He is wholly lacking in that quality. He also remembers the bitter words Hitler addressed to Russia in the famous book, "Mein Kampf" — in which the German dictator pledged himself to the crushing of Russia. The two magnificent liars, Stalin and Hitler, will soothe each other with kind words and soft promises until one gets a chance to stab and rob the other, when of course the idyll will end.

This will lead to a new set-up of world powers, a new League of Nations, and a universal dictator in whose hands all dominion

and governmental power shall be invested. This also is prophesied, and the study of that prophecy shall be the theme of our third volume.

So we close now by warning the dreamers, the humanists, the modernists and the impractical idealists that they would do far better to turn their resources and efforts to some other field than the achievement of world peace. "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked!" Ezekiel tells in clear and simple words that the world can expect another war when this one is ended.

The Lord Jesus said war should follow war until the end of the age.

The book of Revelation portrays a warring world at the very minute Christ returns, and definitely states that there can be no peace until He who is the Prince of Peace, returns to establish His Kingdom.

Let us who name His name rather spend the days that are left in the real business of the Christian.

Our task is not to make a warless world, and bring universal peace.

Our great commission empowers us only to strive to save out of the wreck of this age such individuals as may be persuaded to turn to Christ and be saved from the judgment that shall yet come upon sin. The earth and all therein shall be consumed by fire: the heavens and their hosts shall pass away: but the soul that is anchored on Jesus Christ shall never be moved!

We are the watchmen of Zion in this dark age. Let us be alert, awake and eager to warn men of the coming night, serving our Gospel while it is yet day.

The sure challenge is given us by our own apostle, whom God sent to the gentile nations. These are his words, let us hear and heed them when he cries out: "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

There is a warfare to which we are called, if we are to receive that crown of righteousness when Jesus returns. This battle is not fought with carnal weapons against adversaries of flesh and blood, but it is fought with the Sword of the Spirit against the hosts of wickedness. We are not adequately armed for that conflict unless we know the Word of God and are versed in its prophecies. These studies are offered the saints in the hope that they may intelligently appraise the movement of world events, and thus may not be shaken or moved from their faith and trust when dark days appear. These things

were written for our learning, so let us inquire diligently into God's word, thus stabilizing our own understanding, and being also able to give to those who ask us, a reason for the faith we would share with them.